

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin adapted to be worn in a crotch portion of an undergarment said sanitary napkin comprising a main body with a longitudinal axis and two opposite longitudinal side areas, said main body further comprising:

- a) a fluid-pervious cover layer;
 - b) an absorbent system under said cover layer;
 - c) a liquid-impervious barrier layer under said absorbent system;
 - d) said sanitary napkin being characterised by a thickness less than about 5 mm;
- said liquid-impervious barrier layer including a pair of linear adhesive zones that extend along said longitudinal axis and are adjacent to respective side edges of the sanitary napkin, said linear adhesive zones being capable of bonding said sanitary napkin to the undergarment;
- said main body including a preferential bending line extending obliquely in relation to said longitudinal axis on said main body, said preferential bending line extending from one longitudinal side area of the sanitary napkin to an opposite longitudinal side area, crossing the longitudinal axis of the sanitary napkin; and
- wherein said sanitary napkin is characterized by a flexural resistance of not less than about 400g.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin as defined in claim 2 1, wherein said sanitary napkin has two opposite longitudinal side areas, said sanitary napkin including a preferential bending line extending obliquely in relation to said longitudinal axis, said preferential bending line extending from one longitudinal side area of the sanitary napkin to an opposite longitudinal side area, crossing the longitudinal axis of the sanitary napkin.

4. (Original) A sanitary napkin as defined in claim 3, wherein said sanitary napkin includes a plurality of preferential bending lines crossing one another and defining an array of crossing points.

5. (Original) A sanitary napkin as defined in claim 4, wherein the crossing points in the array of crossing points extend along said longitudinal axis and facilitate folding of said sanitary napkin at a location along the longitudinal axis, said array of crossing points forming a central preferential bending zone.

6. (Previously Presented) A sanitary napkin as defined in claim 1, wherein said main body is capable of acquiring a three dimensional deformation profile in the form of a W profile.

7. (Original) A sanitary napkin as defined in claim 1, wherein said preferential bending zones are formed by a process selected from the group consisting of perforating, slitting, cutting and embossing.

8. (Original) A sanitary napkin as defined in either claim 1, wherein said preferential bending zones are arcuate.

9. (Original) A sanitary napkin as defined in claim 1, wherein said preferential bending zones are aligned with respective longitudinal adhesive zones.

10. (Original) A sanitary napkin as defined in claim 8, wherein said absorbent system includes superabsorbent material.

11. (Original) A sanitary napkin as defined in claim 10, wherein said absorbent system includes a blend of cellulosic fibers and superabsorbent material.

12. (Original) A sanitary napkin as defined in claim 11, wherein said absorbent system includes an absorbent layer having a basis weight of from about 100 g/m² to

about 700 g/m² which has been air-laid as a bottom stratum of pulp, a middle stratum of pulp and superabsorbent polymer disposed in amongst the pulp, and a top stratum containing at least some pulp.

13. (Original) A sanitary napkin as defined in claim 12, wherein said absorbent system includes a plurality of absorbent layers in a superposed condition.

14. (Original) A sanitary napkin as defined in claim 1, wherein said sanitary napkin includes a flap projecting from a side edge of said sanitary napkin, said flap being foldable about an edge of the crotch portion for retaining said sanitary napkin on the undergarment.